SUPPLEMENTARY CLIMATE NEWSLETTER....SEPTEMBER 1995

Dear Observer

Several major changes are currently taking place within the Met. Office and one of the reasons for this Newsletter is to keep you informed. The Met. Office has been an Agency since 1990 and in this Financial Year we are in a 'Shadow Trading Fund' scenario. With effect from April 1996 we expect to be in full Trading Fund which means The Met. Office will have to be self sufficient with regards to funding. This should have no direct effect to you as Climatological Observers, at least in the early stages.

CLIMATOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

The main reason for writing this Newsletter is to inform you that Shirley Hopkins is off to pastures new on the 23rd of October. Shirley has been in the section for five years and felt she needed a new challenge. We are going to miss her and at the moment no decision has been made as to whether she will be replaced. Shirley has penned her fond farewell on the back page. The net result is that all Climatological Management tasks will now be shared between George Spence and Phil Wills. Phil and I will do our best to maintain as good a service as possible but, unfortunately, there may be occasions when responses to requests etc. will take longer than at present. Unless Shirley is replaced there will, inevitably, be times when we are both away from base, on station visits, holidays or sickness. However, we share an office with the Auxiliary Network Managers and in our absence John Higgins or Andy Moffat will do their best to help you. Some of you will have met either John or Andy this summer as we have shared a combined inspection programme.

GENERAL

The wind of change is moving through the Met. Office and our section is not immune. Further changes may take place in the next six months or so but hopefully they will not have a direct effect on you, the observer. It is hoped to produce a Climatological Newsletter during the winter, if staff time permits, and contributions will be gratefully accepted. We will keep you informed of any significant changes that take place. Response to the Observer Courses has been quite good so far and the first three courses are now fully subscribed. There are, however, still places available on COC4 (26-29 March 1996) and COC5, (21-24 May 1996) and application forms will be accepted. If you have misplaced your form a call to me on the number below will secure a place, subject to availability.

Contact telephone numbers at Bracknell are:

GEORGE SPENCE	**01344 854456**
PHIL WILLS	**01344 854667**
FAX	**01344 856412**

A message can be left on our answerphone when no one is available.

George Spence

George Spence

28 September 1995

And it's goodbye from her!

After five 'interesting' years I'm moving to a new post. I've met many of you and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I'm only sorry not to have been able to meet all of you!

I visited many areas of England and Wales that were unknown to me and have realised what beautiful countries they are. I will miss wandering down country lanes searching for isolated farms or trying not to hold up traffic in town centres as I decide on the correct route. Thank you for all the hospitality you've shown me over the years (although I have put on even more weight!).

I will only be working a few floors away so I will be able to keep in touch with what is going on here and, perhaps if I'm passing, some of you wont mind if I drop in to say "hello".

Well, I'm off to learn about Project Management (sounds like fun) at the end of October so I'll wish you all well for the future. If I am replaced I hope he or she will enjoy their contact with you as much as I have!

Shirley Hopkins